

# THE IBIS.

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## SEVENTH SERIES.

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I.—*On the Occurrence of Radde's Bush-Warbler* (*Lusiniola schwarzi*) *in England.* By HOWARD SAUNDERS.

(Plate I.)

FOR the discovery in England of this Warbler from Eastern Siberia ornithologists are indebted to the persistent researches of Mr. G. H. Caton Haigh. On the 1st of October last, according to his custom at the time of migration, Mr. Haigh was diligently "working" the hedgerows which border the long sea-banks on the Lincolnshire side of the Humber, and, when near North Cotes (where he obtained the first British specimen of the Greenish Willow-Warbler), he was attracted by a strange and particularly powerful note. Thereupon the hedgerow was thoroughly beaten out, and the owner of the loud voice proved to be the Warbler in question—a bird about the size of a Wood-Wren. Easterly winds had been prevalent for some time.

Radde discovered this Warbler in a kitchen-garden at Kulussutajevsk, near the Tarei-nor, Transbaikalia, on the 22nd of September, 1856, and named it *Sylvia* (*Phyllopneuste*) *schwarzi*, after his friend, the astronomer to the expedition (Reis. Süd. Ost-Sibir. Bd. ii. pp. 260–263, tav. x. figs. 1–3). He afterwards found it in the Chingan Mountains. Dybowsky met with it in Daüria and the Ussuri country; Schrenck in the Amur Valley, and Dr. Nikolski in the southwestern forests of the Island of Saghalien. From the dates at which specimens were obtained, the bird evidently breeds

in these districts, but nothing is known of its nidification. The most detailed account of this Warbler is by Godlewski, who writes to the following effect :—On its migrations this species is common throughout South-eastern Siberia and in Daiuria, and is widely distributed in autumn; but it is rarer in Ussuria, though it appears to nest there, for it sings all through the summer. In the early part of August, during our journey across the Government of Yeniseisk, on the road between Irkutsk and Tomsk, it was also singing, so that it probably nests there. On passage it frequents the bushy margins of the forests, and it arrives early in June. Its song is short and not very agreeable, but loud, and the alarm-note may be rendered as *gibout-gibout*. We did not find its nest. It leaves Ussuria about the middle of September.

In winter Radde's Bush-Warbler visits Southern China, Pegu, and the northern and central portions of Tenasserim (Oates, *Fauna Brit. India, Birds*, i. pp. 399–400). Its large bastard-primary indicates its connection with the genus *Luscinia*, in which Seebohm placed it; but Mr. Oates finds this genus too comprehensive, and relegates the bird to the genus *Herbivocula* of Swinhoe. The upper plumage is olive-brown, tinged with tawny, especially on the rump; wings and tail brown, edged on the outer webs with the colour of the back; supercilium very distinct and reaching to the nape; lores and feathers behind the eye dark brown; ear-coverts buff and brown; lower plumage rich tawny buff, paling on the throat and abdomen; axillaries and under wing-coverts buff. In summer the lower parts are nearly white, merely tinged with yellow or buff, more especially so on the vent and under tail-coverts. Bill horn-colour, the base fleshy white and the gape yellow; iris brown; legs and feet fleshy yellow. Length about 5–6 inches, wing 2·45, tarsus 0·9 inch, bill from gape 0·65. The 2nd primary is equal to the 8th, or intermediate between the 7th and 8th; the 1st primary is very long, measuring 0·85 inch in length (Oates).

The young bird, like Mr. Haigh's specimen from which the figure (Plate I.) is taken, is decidedly more olivaceous on the upper parts. The bill is stout and deep for a



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

LUSCINIOLA SCHWARZI.

Mintern Bros. imp.

Warbler, and the three rictal bristles are very strong, but the supplementary hairs do not extend up the culmen nor cover the nostrils as in *Phylloscopus* (Oates).

The following are the principal references:—

*Sylvia* (*Phyllopneuste*) *schwarzi* Radde, Reis. Süd. Ost-Sibir. Bd. ii. p. 260, t. ix. f. *a, b, c* (1863).

*Phylloscopus brooksi* Hume, S. F. ii. p. 505 (1874); v. p. 134.

*Neornis flavolivacea* Hodgs. apud Hume, S. F. iii. p. 139; Oates, S. F. x. p. 221.

*Phylloscopus schwarzi* Brooks, S. F. iv. p. 277; Hume & Dav. S. F. vi. p. 353; Hume, Cat. no. 556 *ter*; Bingham, S. F. ix. p. 186.

*Luscinola schwarzi* (Radde), Seebohm, Cat. B. M. v. p. 128; Tacz. Ornith. Sibérie (Mém. Acad. Sci. St. Pétersb. sér. 7, xxxix.), p. 276.

*Herbivocula schwarzi* Oates, B. of Brit. Burmah, i. p. 91; id. Fauna Brit. India, Birds, i. p. 399.

*Luscinola* (*Herbivocula*) *schwarzi* Pleske, Orn. Rossica, ii. p. 388, t. iii. f. 1, 2.

I add a list of the specimens of *Luscinola schwarzi* in the collection of the British Museum:—

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| <i>a.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Kultuk, Lake Baikal, June 15, 1876 ( <i>Dr. Dybowsky</i> ). | H. Seebohm [P.]<br>(Specimen <i>a</i> in B. M. C.) |
| <i>b.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Kultuk, Lake Baikal, June 15, 1876 ( <i>Dr. Dybowsky</i> ). | Seebohm Coll.                                      |
| <i>c.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Lake Baikal, June 7, 1877 ( <i>Dr. Dybowsky</i> ).          | Seebohm Coll.                                      |
| <i>d.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Lake Baikal, June 11, 1877 ( <i>Dr. Dybowsky</i> ).         | Seebohm Coll.                                      |
| <i>e.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Lake Baikal, June 13.                                       | Seebohm Coll.                                      |
| <i>f.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Lake Baikal, June 11, 1877.                                 | Tweeddale Coll.                                    |
| <i>g.</i> Ad. sk.   | Tientsin, China ( <i>R. Swinhoe</i> ).                      | Seebohm Coll.                                      |
| <i>h.</i> ♀ ad. sk. | Thayetmyo, Pegu, Jan. 10, 1873.                             | E. W. Oates [C.].                                  |
| <i>i.</i> Ad. sk.   | Kyeikpadein, Lower Pegu, Mar. 1881.                         | E. W. Oates [C.].                                  |
| <i>k.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Yeaboo, Tenasserim, Dec. 21, 1878 ( <i>J. Darling</i> ).    | Hume Coll.   |
| <i>l.</i> ♂ ad. sk. | Pahpoon, Tenasserim, Dec. 24, 1873 ( <i>W. Davison</i> ).   | Hume Coll.   |

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| m. ♀ ad. sk.     | Pahpoon, Tenasserim, Jan. 13,  | Seebohm Coll.<br>1874 ( <i>W. D.</i> ). |
| n. ♂ ad. sk.     | Myawadee, Tenasserim, Jan. 21,                                       | Hume Coll.<br>1877 ( <i>W. D.</i> ).    |
| o. ♂ imm.<br>sk. | Thoungyeen R., Tenasserim,<br>Mar. 4, 1880 ( <i>C. T. Bingham</i> ). | Hume Coll.                              |
| p. ♀ ad. sk.     | Wimpong, Tenasserim, Dec. 20,  | Hume Coll.<br>1876 ( <i>W. D.</i> ).    |
| q. ♂ ad. sk.     | Kaukaryit, Tenasserim, Jan. 10,                                      | Hume Coll.<br>1877 ( <i>W. D.</i> ).    |
| r. ♂ ad. sk.     | Kaukaryit, Tenasserim, Jan. 14,                                      | Hume Coll.<br>1877 ( <i>W. D.</i> ).    |

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## II.—*A Day's Egging on the Sandbanks of the Ganges.*

By WILLIAM JESSE.

IN writing this account of a day spent in hunting sandbanks for the eggs of the Terns and Plovers, I cannot help feeling that I am going over ground well known and somewhat stale; but, as it is just possible that there may be some other oologist as enthusiastic, but as inexperienced in this particular line as myself, I think that my remarks may have some slight interest.

None of the Terns and Plovers that haunt our large Indian river-systems breed in the immediate vicinity of Lucknow, the Goomti not being a stream broad enough to furnish the flats and islands patronized by these birds.

I had made one short trip down the Ganges from Cawnpore in the middle of March, through the kindness of Mr. Fisher, of the Bank of Bengal, but, partly owing to the somewhat early date, and partly to my ignorance of the habits of the birds, I was unsuccessful. However, in the second week in April last I found I could get a few days' leave, and promptly wrote to my friend Mr. Wildeblood, District Engineer at Fatehgarh, to acquaint him of the fact, and to say that I intended to come over to him with all speed, bent on oological discoveries.

On the 5th of April therefore I entered the train, thoroughly equipped for my expedition, and with the Indian oologist's